

News

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HIGHLIGHTS OF HOUSTON-GALVESTON-BRAZORIA, TX NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY DECEMBER 2001

Workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Texas, metropolitan area averaged \$18.94 per hour during December 2001, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$23.73 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.60 per hour and represented 29 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$9.98 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal government. This NCS covered 613 firms representing 869,600 workers in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area, which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties in Texas. Seventy-six percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 101 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, petroleum engineers averaged \$45.98 per hour; registered nurses, \$25.62; and receptionists, \$10.65. Blue-collar occupations included electricians at \$21.45 per hour; machinists at \$19.37; and bus drivers at \$14.24. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$19.63 per hour; firefighters, \$17.70; and cooks, \$7.88.

National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001 (continued)

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area averaged \$19.82 per hour and part-timers earned \$8.26. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$19.56 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$13.11. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$13.71 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$21.13.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX National Compensation Survey December 2001 (Bulletin 3115-03). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting documents 9530 and 9531.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings (1), all workers (2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$18.94	2.6	\$18.65	3.3	\$19.93	2.6
All excluding sales	19.20	2.7	18.95	3.5	19.97	2.6
White collar	23.73	2.5	23.99	3.2	23.06	3.1
White collar excluding sales	24.95	2.5	25.78	3.3	23.13	3.1
Professional specialty and technical	29.01	3.0	29.92	4.4	27.58	3.0
Professional specialty	30.46	2.5	31.86	3.8	28.68	2.8
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	35.60	5.4	35.60	5.4	—	—
Petroleum engineers	45.98	5.7	45.98	5.7	—	—
Civil engineers	36.86	8.8	36.86	8.8	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	37.08	6.9	37.08	6.9	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	29.40	4.9	29.54	4.9	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	29.30	5.0	29.44	5.0	—	—
Natural scientists	26.20	8.5	28.57	9.8	—	—
Geologists and geodesists	33.53	11.7	33.53	11.7	—	—
Health related	26.79	2.3	26.46	2.6	27.37	4.2
Registered nurses	25.62	1.7	25.35	1.9	26.07	3.1
Pharmacists	35.63	1.1	35.56	1.5	—	—
Teachers, college and university	47.19	10.0	—	—	46.81	10.7
Other post-secondary teachers	53.68	12.8	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	28.59	1.3	23.33	6.7	28.77	1.3
Elementary school teachers	28.47	.9	—	—	28.50	.9
Secondary school teachers	29.11	2.1	—	—	29.15	2.1
Teachers, n.e.c.	26.78	3.7	18.27	4.3	—	—
Vocational and educational counselors	30.42	6.9	—	—	30.88	6.8
Librarians, archivists, and curators	20.39	15.3	—	—	20.25	19.0
Librarians	20.39	15.3	—	—	20.25	19.0
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	15.47	5.9	14.56	13.4	15.78	6.1
Social workers	15.35	5.8	—	—	15.78	6.1
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	28.12	14.1	28.31	16.0	—	—
Technical	23.56	11.7	24.90	13.3	17.56	10.9
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	16.87	10.5	16.81	10.6	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	16.03	3.6	15.60	2.0	18.24	16.1
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	17.59	4.3	17.54	3.4	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	22.69	9.0	23.97	9.8	—	—
Drafters	30.57	8.5	30.57	8.5	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	18.98	15.2	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	34.45	3.6	35.97	3.8	28.11	7.4
Executives, administrators, and managers	36.67	4.1	39.26	4.2	29.22	8.1
Administrators and officials, public administration	26.01	13.8	—	—	25.96	13.9
Financial managers	38.31	17.3	38.87	18.1	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	38.83	9.4	38.83	9.4	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	37.20	6.8	—	—	37.49	7.0
Managers, food servicing and lodging establishments	16.55	9.8	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	41.19	5.4	43.61	4.4	—	—
Management related	30.42	6.9	31.17	7.1	21.37	14.4
Accountants and auditors	25.56	6.1	25.56	6.1	—	—
Other financial officers	40.31	7.4	40.31	7.4	—	—
Management analysts	25.78	17.8	25.78	17.8	—	—
Purchasing agents and buyers, n.e.c.	23.82	16.0	—	—	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	25.31	8.5	25.10	9.8	—	—
Sales	15.46	7.0	15.53	7.1	—	—
Supervisors, sales	22.57	11.6	22.57	11.6	—	—
Sales, other business services	17.07	12.1	17.07	12.1	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	27.88	9.6	27.88	9.6	—	—
Sales workers, motor vehicles and boats	13.17	7.8	13.17	7.8	—	—
Sales workers, parts	22.67	7.0	22.67	7.0	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Mean hourly earnings (1), all workers (2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Sales —Continued						
Sales workers, other commodities	\$8.03	3.8	\$8.03	3.8	—	—
Cashiers	7.90	5.1	7.78	5.4	—	—
Sales support, n.e.c.	15.96	13.1	15.96	13.1	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	13.51	2.0	14.07	2.5	\$12.05	2.4
Supervisors, general office	14.53	7.9	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, distribution, scheduling, and adjusting clerks	21.01	7.8	21.01	7.8	—	—
Secretaries	15.09	3.4	16.01	3.8	12.54	4.3
Receptionists	10.65	3.6	10.62	3.9	—	—
Information clerks, n.e.c.	13.42	12.0	13.65	12.9	—	—
Order clerks	14.99	11.6	14.99	11.6	—	—
Library clerks	9.53	8.3	—	—	9.53	8.3
File clerks	10.11	5.9	—	—	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	13.50	5.8	13.85	11.2	13.26	5.8
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.22	3.7	13.26	3.9	—	—
Dispatchers	11.09	6.6	—	—	—	—
Production coordinators	18.64	8.5	—	—	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	11.13	6.3	10.75	5.6	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	10.72	8.0	10.82	11.5	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	16.13	9.5	16.29	9.9	—	—
General office clerks	12.77	3.9	14.17	5.3	11.50	3.8
Data entry keyers	10.76	3.4	10.76	3.4	—	—
Teachers' aides	10.39	1.8	—	—	10.39	1.8
Administrative support, n.e.c.	13.69	3.8	13.86	5.0	13.29	5.5
Blue collar	14.60	3.5	14.67	3.7	13.55	3.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.18	3.5	19.44	3.7	15.64	6.4
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	28.61	12.5	31.30	11.8	—	—
Automobile mechanics	24.18	8.2	24.42	8.1	—	—
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	15.21	5.3	—	—	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	16.39	6.0	16.47	6.1	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	18.09	11.0	18.62	13.3	—	—
Electricians	21.45	3.5	21.96	3.7	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	17.50	8.5	17.50	8.5	—	—
Construction trades, n.e.c.	10.49	12.4	10.12	13.1	—	—
Supervisors, production	26.13	9.0	28.19	7.2	—	—
Machinists	19.37	4.3	19.37	4.3	—	—
Inspectors, testers, and graders	18.52	3.6	18.52	3.6	—	—
Miscellaneous plant and system operators, n.e.c.	25.46	1.3	25.46	1.3	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.19	9.2	12.19	9.2	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	13.96	12.7	13.96	12.7	—	—
Welders and cutters	14.80	6.6	14.80	6.6	—	—
Assemblers	10.44	12.2	10.44	12.2	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	14.02	10.3	14.02	10.5	—	—
Transportation and material moving	14.19	5.2	14.29	5.9	13.45	4.2
Truck drivers	15.22	8.8	15.36	9.0	—	—
Bus drivers	14.24	6.4	—	—	13.36	4.0
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	9.85	5.3	9.85	5.3	—	—
Miscellaneous material moving equipment operators, n.e.c.	15.64	16.4	15.93	17.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.69	5.0	9.58	5.5	10.94	4.4
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	10.26	5.6	—	—	10.52	5.8
Helpers, mechanics and repairers	10.48	9.5	10.46	11.7	—	—
Construction laborers	8.47	9.4	—	—	—	—
Production helpers	10.37	9.9	10.37	9.9	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.40	8.5	8.40	8.5	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	12.89	8.7	12.89	8.7	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers (2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
—Continued						
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	\$9.31	9.2	\$9.16	9.7	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	8.13	5.8	8.13	5.8	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.26	13.0	9.07	14.4	\$11.53	11.5
Service	9.98	4.4	7.92	5.2	13.55	4.2
Protective service	15.10	6.6	9.08	5.7	17.08	3.9
Firefighting	17.70	3.1	—	—	17.70	3.1
Police and detectives, public service	19.63	4.0	—	—	19.63	4.0
Sheriffs, bailiffs, and other law enforcement						
officers	18.32	3.0	—	—	18.32	3.0
Correctional institution officers	12.17	2.5	—	—	12.17	2.5
Food service	7.36	5.6	7.10	6.5	8.99	3.3
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	4.47	20.1	4.47	20.1	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	4.14	25.0	4.14	25.0	—	—
Other food service	8.35	3.9	8.21	4.8	8.99	3.3
Supervisors, food preparation and service	14.26	8.5	14.26	8.5	—	—
Cooks	7.88	3.9	7.88	3.9	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	7.39	5.9	7.19	6.6	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.84	5.8	7.17	7.8	9.15	2.7
Health service	10.12	5.4	8.75	9.0	11.74	4.3
Health aides, except nursing	12.02	6.0	—	—	12.25	7.1
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	9.22	7.5	8.47	9.9	11.07	5.4
Cleaning and building service	7.74	6.7	7.10	7.4	9.73	3.8
Maids and housemen	6.79	3.1	6.79	3.1	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	7.69	7.8	6.79	7.8	9.76	3.8
Personal service	12.87	16.9	14.40	22.8	10.33	10.3
Early childhood teachers' assistants	9.12	5.3	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings (1) by occupational group (2), National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$19.82	\$8.26	\$21.89	\$18.65	\$18.87	\$20.60
All excluding sales	19.99	8.48	21.74	18.95	19.13	23.51
White collar	24.32	11.22	34.52	23.47	23.88	20.94
White-collar excluding sales	25.19	15.45	38.45	24.68	24.88	31.86
Professional specialty and technical	29.15	22.47	75.44	28.26	29.01	—
Professional specialty	30.58	24.52	—	30.46	30.46	—
Technical	23.74	16.91	75.44	19.28	23.56	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	34.45	—	—	34.45	34.29	38.81
Sales	17.28	7.11	25.08	14.89	13.99	18.66
Administrative support, including clerical	13.64	10.75	14.34	13.47	13.49	—
Blue collar	15.00	8.07	19.56	13.11	14.42	19.70
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.32	—	22.05	17.78	18.97	22.83
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.22	—	19.27	11.14	12.19	—
Transportation and material moving	14.77	7.94	17.65	12.75	14.11	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.03	7.63	12.49	9.31	9.70	—
Service	11.12	6.21	21.09	9.66	9.98	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.6	5.3	7.6	2.7	2.6	10.0
All excluding sales	2.7	6.2	7.7	2.8	2.7	13.7
White collar	2.5	7.3	26.5	2.4	2.6	12.1
White-collar excluding sales	2.5	9.6	33.1	2.4	2.5	30.1
Professional specialty and technical	3.1	7.4	32.7	2.6	3.0	—
Professional specialty	2.6	7.6	—	2.5	2.5	—
Technical	11.9	6.5	32.7	4.8	11.7	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.6	—	—	3.6	3.6	27.0
Sales	7.0	4.3	24.9	6.1	7.5	12.6
Administrative support, including clerical	2.0	6.2	6.5	2.0	2.0	—
Blue collar	3.6	7.3	3.7	3.8	3.5	11.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.4	—	3.3	4.5	3.6	7.8
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.3	—	5.4	9.3	9.2	—
Transportation and material moving	4.4	20.9	8.6	6.8	5.6	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.6	5.5	7.6	5.7	5.0	—
Service	4.2	6.0	14.3	4.3	4.4	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings (1) by occupational group (2), private industry, National Compensation Survey, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, December 2001**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$18.65	\$13.71	\$19.59	\$17.70	\$21.13
All excluding sales	18.95	13.69	19.90	17.98	21.29
White collar	23.99	19.46	24.57	22.80	25.75
White-collar excluding sales	25.78	22.57	26.09	25.68	26.30
Professional specialty and technical	29.92	28.71	29.99	30.54	29.73
Professional specialty	31.86	32.01	31.85	32.92	31.25
Technical	24.90	20.84	25.18	21.88	26.31
Executive, administrative, and managerial	35.97	35.14	36.05	36.03	36.05
Sales	15.53	13.83	16.05	16.02	16.17
Administrative support, including clerical	14.07	13.31	14.17	14.15	14.19
Blue collar	14.67	11.71	15.41	14.39	16.59
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.44	14.13	20.44	19.51	21.36
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	12.19	12.96	12.06	12.14	11.97
Transportation and material moving	14.29	13.17	14.68	13.93	15.20
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.58	8.06	10.15	9.71	11.21
Service	7.92	7.10	8.18	7.32	8.82
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.3	6.9	3.6	5.2	5.0
All excluding sales	3.5	7.7	3.8	5.7	5.1
White collar	3.2	8.9	3.4	5.7	4.4
White-collar excluding sales	3.3	9.5	3.5	5.9	4.3
Professional specialty and technical	4.4	11.2	4.7	8.3	5.7
Professional specialty	3.8	10.5	4.0	8.9	3.5
Technical	13.3	17.6	14.1	9.3	18.1
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.8	11.7	4.0	7.8	4.7
Sales	7.1	12.1	8.5	9.7	17.8
Administrative support, including clerical	2.5	6.8	2.6	4.2	3.4
Blue collar	3.7	7.1	4.4	5.0	7.7
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.7	10.3	3.9	4.9	6.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	9.2	7.0	10.6	7.8	20.9
Transportation and material moving	5.9	10.6	7.1	7.9	10.9
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5.5	5.8	6.4	8.3	9.3
Service	5.2	9.7	6.3	7.0	9.7

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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